हथकरघा बुनकरों की आर्थिक दशा को सुधारने तथा हथकरघा बुनकरों के हितों की सुरक्षा के लिए सरकार ने नीचे दी गई विकासात्मक स्कीमों के द्वारा वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने हेतु कई कदम उठाये हैं।

1. बाजार विकास सहायता स्कीम
2. निर्यात योग्य उत्पादों का विकास और उनके विपणन की स्कीम
3. राष्ट्रीय/मिनी हथकरघा एक्सपो
4. शिल्प मेले, जिला स्तर के मेले तथा त्यौहार
5. कार्यशाला-सह-आवास योजना स्कीम
6. थ्रिफ्ट फंड स्कीम।
7. समूह बीमा स्कीम।
8. स्वास्थ्य पैकेज स्कीम
9. प्रोजेक्ट पैकेज स्कीम
10. अनुसंधान एवं विकास स्कीम
11. स्वतंत्र डिजाइनर स्कीम
12. विकेन्द्रीकृत प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम।
13. मिल गेट कीमत पर यार्न की आपूर्ति।

**Ban on Cotton Export**

2478. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government has requested for ban on cotton export; and

(b) the action taken in this regard to meet the shortage of yarn in that State?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes sir, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written a letter to the Union Minister of Textiles requesting not to allow export of raw cotton because of the crisis being faced by the textile industry in Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was informed that under the long term export policy of Government export of raw cotton is allowed keeping in view the specific objectives of "stabilisation of cotton prices', "ensuring remunerative prices to the cotton growers" and "maintaining India's presence in the international market as a stable supplier of cotton". The Cotton Advisory Board has estimated total supply of cotton during the current cotton season 1998-99 to the extent of 198.00 lakh bales (including carry over stocks and estimated import of 6.50 lakh bales) as against the total demand to the extent of 158 lakh bales (including estimated export of 2 lakh bales) leaving thereby a comfortable closing stock of 40 lakh bales of raw cotton. Moreover, import of raw cotton is placed under Open General Licence with 5% duty to allow free import if so needed. Also, Government do not have any scheme to supply yarn to any particular State/Industry except to the Handloom Sector.

**Production of Jute**

2479. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target set and actual production of jute during the last three years, Statewise;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to increase the production of just and jute products;

(c) if so, the strategy to be adopted to increase the production during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether Government are aware of the inadequate marketing facilities in the Jute growing States; and

(e) if so, the details of steps taken to boost the Jute sector by increasing production, marketing and export in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) A statement regarding target of production of jute and mesta actual statewise production of raw jute and mesta over the last 3 years is enclosed (*see* below).

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Regarding strategy to be adopted for increasing the production of jute (including mesta) the steps proposed to be underaken are as follows:—

(i) Plan target at covering 90% of total area under jute and mesta has been proposed to be met by high yielding certified seeds.

(ii) Massive propagation is to be made amongst growers for popularising the use of line sowing of jute seeds.